

Clark, Dorothy

Coin Collectors Number Over Eight Million People

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By DOROTHY CLARK

If statistics can be believed, coin collectors now total over eight million people, and the hobby continues to grow in popularity.

Collectors are classed as beginning collectors, sophisticated collectors, and the average collectors who need to fill in or upgrade their coin albums.

Beginners need to learn how coins are graded. "About Good" means the date is readable but the coin is well-worn. "Good" means a coin quite worn but

lettering is fully readable and at least a partial rim is still evident. "V.G. Very Good" denotes not

as worn as "Good" but still lacking most of the design details. "Fine" means that most of the major details of the coin are clear, but wear obvious.

"V.F. Very Fine" indicates wear only on high spots and design details show up well. "E.F. Extremely Fine" denotes very slight wear on the high spots only. "A.U. About Uncirculated" indicates a coin that is just a shade off being uncirculated. Wear would be visible only with a strong magnifying glass. "Unc. Uncirculated" is the coin with no wear at all, fresh out of the mint, and shining in full mint luster.

Peace Dollars Valuable

The first coin to bear the word "Peace" was the silver dollar minted in late 1921, but not circulated until 1922. They stemmed directly from America's desire for peace after the first World War. These silver

dollars now cost the buyer approximately four times their actual monetary value.

By act of Congress the Franklin half-dollar was to be minted until at least 1968, but in 1963 Congress passed a law substituting the Kennedy half-dollar. This sudden change in mintage plans gave the Franklin coins added interest and importance. Today a Franklin half-dollar is as hard to find as a Kennedy half-dollar.

In 1964 the Kennedy half-dollar, the Washington quarter and the Roosevelt dime were the last of the brilliant and beautiful .900 fine of 90 per cent silver coins struck by the U.S. Treasury. They have become the most famous of all coins ever minted in America.

The 1965 "J.F.K." sets were the first coins minted in which the silver content of the half dollar was reduced from 90 per cent to 40 per cent, and was completely eliminated from the quarter and the dime. In addition the "D" (Denver) mint marks were eliminated, making these the first Denver coins in 61 years (since the Denver mint was established in 1906) to appear without mint marks. In fact, because of the change in the silver content, both the 1965 and 1966

coins are the only truly different American coins to be minted in over 90 years.

The first coin on which the motto "I God We Trust" appeared, due largely to increased religious fervor during the Civil War, was the Two-Cent piece. Very few have ever seen this coin which was struck only by the Philadelphia mint beginning in 1864. It was never popular and was discontinued in 1873.

There was also a Three-Cent piece (nickel) minted from 1865 to 1889. These coins were never popular because of their size, being easily mistaken for dimes. They quickly passed out of general circulation after 1889 so that few remain today. Incidentally, today they cost a collector about three dollars each!

V Nickels Rare

The Liberty Head "No-Cent" nickels, also called "Racketeer" nickels, were struck in 1883. The reverse featured a large "V" in a wreath but the word "cents" did not appear anywhere. Almost immediately some ingenious, but not too honest citizens, began gold plating them and passing V nickels as Five Dollar gold pieces. To counteract this the word "cents" was added during the first year of their issue. Thus only a relatively small number without "cents" were minted.

In 1955 the San Francisco Mint struck the last coins with an "S" mint mark. Only cents and dimes of low mintage were struck, so today these coins are really historical pieces.

An album filled with the necessary 73 Jefferson nickels including the very and expensive 1950-D as well as all the wartime silver nickels now retails at about \$40.

A beginning collector can acquire the necessary fifty Roosevelt dimes dating from 1948 to 1967 for about \$15.

Coin collecting is such a fascinating hobby because it deals with the history of our country and its famous people. More about coins and paper money in the near future. . .



DOROTHY J. CLARK

Clark, Dorothy

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Eight Million Collect Rare Coins, Paper Money

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

A few weeks ago in this column the subject of coin collecting was so well received I decided another one was indicated, so here goes—

How many of my readers have ever seen the very rare U. S. Twenty-Cent Piece? Issued only from 1875 to 1878 it has the distinction of being the shortest issue of any U. S. coin, minted for just four years. It closely resembled the quarter in size and weight, which made it an unpopular coin from the start. It was struck to halt the practice of dealing in "bits" (12½ cents) prevalent at that time in many western states.

If, for instance, an item cost 20 cents, a storekeeper often accepted two bits (25 cents) as the purchase price and returned no change to the customer.

Finally, in 1878, the Treasury discontinued the 20-cent pieces and melted down many uncirculated coins still on hand, one



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more reason why these are rare, unusual and very desirable to collectors.

The fabulous 1909 VDB Cent is the first Lincoln Head cent ever struck, the first U.S. coin ever to feature the bust of an

American historical figure, and the first cent to carry the motto "In God We Trust."

Originally all 1909 cents carried the initials of the designer Victor D. Brunner in large letters on the reverse, but a few weeks later they were removed from the die by the Treasury Department, so very few 1909 VDB pennies were ever struck. The San Francisco mint mark on this coin makes it even more rare and valuable.

The first Indian Head pennies ever minted were known as Copper-Nickel cents and were white, thicker, and approximately 33 per cent heavier than pennies struck today. These original Indian Heads were minted for only six years 1859-1864 and featured the pro-

file of an Indian girl, not a warrior.

During World War II nickel became a critical war material, so from 1942 through 1945 silver was used as a substitute. Later when the price of silver increased the value of these nickels naturally rose proportionately.

Collectors and investors began acquiring them, and some private firms are known to have melted them down for their silver content. Today it's considered a great event to find one in your pocket change.

Zinc Substituted for Copper

For one year only 1943 the penny fell prey to wartime shortages. Like the Jefferson nickels World War II caused the Treasury to substitute zinc coated steel for copper in minting cents. These steel cents, from the Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco mints, were the only steel pennies ever struck in this country.

Extremely rare and difficult to find are the large size U.S. currency also known as "Saddle Blankets." These bills were printed before the government discontinued the large size note in 1928.

The small two dollar bill was issued from 1928 to 1966 when it was finally discontinued by the Treasury. It was never popular, being shunned by storekeeper and bankers alike. Often mistaken for a five dollar bill, a practice developed of clipping or tearing off a corner to call attention to its denomination. No longer a "jinx" the two dollar bill now is worth twice that amount to collectors.

Dollar bills continue to be in the news. The printing of silver certificates were stopped in 1963. Notes now being issued are NOT backed by silver. The certificate dated 1935 have no motto on the back; those beginning with 1957 have "In God We Trust."

Many collectors are interested in only foreign coins. The only silver dollar (80 per cent fine) still being minted by any major country was the Canadian Centennial coin. After 1969 the design of a Canadian goose in full flight will not appear as the dies will be destroyed.

Every Canadian coin during 1967 has a new wild life design especially struck in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Canada and will not be minted again. In the future the silver quarter

and dimes will be minted of nickel.

Gold coins from Mexico, all 22-karat solid gold just like our American coins, are perfectly legal to buy and own. The "Aztec" or twenty peso coin has the artistic Aztec calendar. The five and ten peso coins have the profile of Hidalgo, famous patriot of the Mexican independence movement of 1810.

The coin nobody wanted was the 1964 Mexican quarter. Because it was irregularly struck, it would not stack evenly, and Mexican citizens rejected it. All the coins were called in, but the few that escaped have made the collectors happy. So goes coin collecting — a fascinating hobby to over eight million!

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CLARK, Dorothy J.

Silver Coins Attract TriO-STAR 3/8/70 Attention of Collectors

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Reader response is always very good when this column deals with coin collecting, so from time to time I like to bring collectors up-to-date on the latest.

What is the real value of the silver coins Uncle John sent home from Australia, France, North Africa or the Philippines during World War II? Or the silver pesos Aunt Jenny brought back from Mexico or Cuba?

In addition to having collectors' value, many silver coins issued in past years by nations of the world have suddenly jumped in value over the past two years as the price of silver has increased at least 60 per cent.

Two years ago the silver content of a U.S. dollar was valued at 96 cents; today, even in uncollectible condition, a silver dollar has \$1.54 worth of silver in it! Likewise the common United States dime issued until 1964 has 14 cents worth of silver in it!

Over 110 common silver coins of the world have been analyzed by the staff of World Coins magazine in Sidney, Ohio, to give readers an insight into the actual silver content of many coins issued in the past 50 years.

The coins selected for analyses were not chosen for beauty, commemorative purpose or scarcity; rather they were chosen on the basis of being common, everyday coins used in many parts of the world, the kind that would be brought home by tourists and servicemen.

A 1946 shilling of England valued at 12 cents now has a silver content of 18 cents. A Canadian 50-cent piece has 60 cents worth of silver in it! Today a Venezuelan bolivar is valued at 22 cents, yet a 1936 silver bolivar is worth 27 cents just for its metal content!

Collectors and noncollectors alike may easily find that coins lying around the house have taken on a new dimension of value, as rising silver costs have increased the metal value of coins, a new plus to the coin collector and a new value to the noncollector.

Well-known collectors have noted, "Silver dollars should take the forefront in collecting. Large silver coins 1880 to 1900 have to be underpriced at only \$2.50 each. Low mintage rolls such as the 1955-S cents will catch the investor's eyes."



Dorothy Clark

stocks are still priced easy."

Prices Rose Rapidly

A new dimension was given to coin collecting, and the value of coins, when the U.S. Treasury unpegged silver price from \$1.2929 per troy ounce in 1967. Prices rose quickly all over the world. On the speculative silver market, prices once reached as high as \$2.80 in silver fu-

tures. As 1969 opened, the actual price was in excess of 12 per ounce.

What was once intended to be a coin with a face value of a shilling, franc, mark or dollar, representing a nation's basic monetary unit, with a silver value 10 to 30 per cent (or more) under face value,

One collector predicted that "The Jefferson nickel will take a turn up in sales as most collectors look for a change in design in early 1975 or 1976."

"The 1950-D nickels will again take a commanding price, as they should because of the low mintage."

One coin dealer stated that "We see common American silver coins becoming scarcer and disappearing from circulation, with wise collectors hurrying to complete their silver coin collections while

suddenly became a coin with intrinsic (silver) value in excess of face value.

Overnight, almost, without regard to condition, a silver dollar of the U.S. was worth \$1.54; a Canadian dollar, \$1.19; a Panama balboa, \$1.54.

With one added factor thrown in, inflation, a devalued Colombian peso is worth some six cents, but a Columbian silver peso of 1956 is worth \$1.44! If one owns a silver peso dated 1914 of El Salvador, its face value is now 40 cents; silver value stands at \$1.44.

Such marked differences immediately throw into effect Gresham's law—bad money drives out good—and silver coins cease to be circulating media and become sought by collectors and non-collectors alike. Bank clerks sell at a premium to hoarders; hoarders sell to speculators, and when the price is right, speculators sell to refiners and the coins cease to be numismatic items.

Collectors who mourn the loss of tinkling silver coins from Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada and South Africa can easily understand that a complete revaluation of the monetary system would have been necessary to establish a basic value based on real silver prices.

To focus attention on more than 100 silver coins, usually quite common and available through travelers and servicemen returning from abroad, the "World Coins" staff has compiled a list of coins showing actual weight of coins, fineness, actual silver weight in the coin, and U.S. dollar value fixed at a market value for silver of \$2 per ounce. Any increase over \$2 in silver value may be applied to the value given.

A sample copy of the January issue of "World Coins" containing this chart will be sent to readers who send their name, address, ZIP and 60 cents to: "World Coins," P.O. Box 150, Sidney, Ohio 45365.

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Tribal Coin Medal Series Is Featuring Hopi Indians

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Number Two in the Indian Tribal Series of Coin-Medals and Books has just been announced. The Hopi Indian Tribe is the second in the exciting new series of officially adopted and sanctioned books and medals that tell the story of each of America's most prominent Indian nations.

Living on high windswept mesas that have been their homes since 300 years before the travels of Columbus, neither the invasion of the Spaniard, nor the later intrusion of the white man has moved these people from their beliefs and religion. Unchangeable, admirable, truly unique are the Hopi (pronounced hoe-pee).

The Coin-Medals have been struck in pure (.999 fineness) silver and in proof condition at the world-famous Franklin Mint. Each piece will carry its own serial number stamped on the edge.

The obverse pictures the "Corn Kachina" (Avachoya) in the foreground and the age-old pueblo of Walpi (the place of the gap) in the background. The words — "Sovereign Nation of the Hopi" are inscribed with the date 1971.

The reverse depicts the morning kachina with its Hopi name "Telavai." The word Siva is the Hopi translation for "piece of silver."

The many mysteries of the Hopi life, religion, kachinas, and beliefs are brought to life in the completely new book



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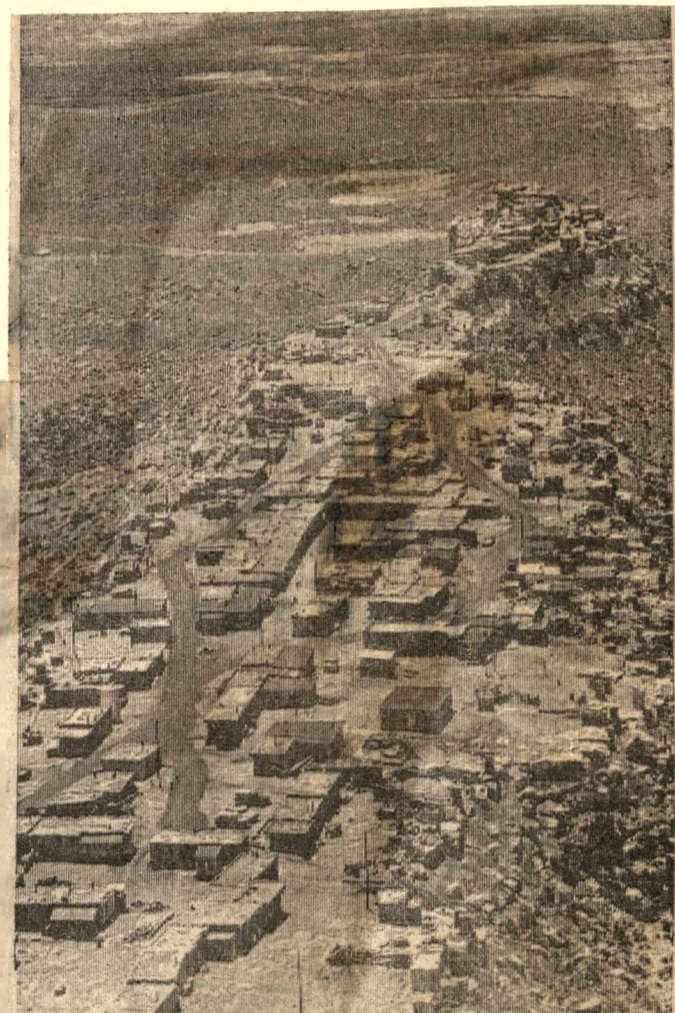
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"The Hopi People" written by Drs. Dobyns and Euler of Prescott College, with many full-color photographs. Each book carries the same serial number as its companion Coin-Medal. Mintage (total quantity produced) will be limited to 16,000 copies of Books and Medals.

Living in 12 villages on three mesas and one green little valley, the Hopi Indians can be found from Walpi to Shipaulovi (the mosquitos), Meonkopi, Hotavilla, Kiakochomovi and on to Oraibi (the oldest village on this continent). Theirs is a poor land. Wind driven sands and the blistering sun are thier summer, while snow and winds are their winter. Yet they have flourished; they have prospered and they are proud.

It is the Hopi tribe's wish that they may eventually handle all of their own affairs, separate from any government assistance. The only way that this may be accomplished will be through the furthering of formal education for the young tribal members. At the present time, there are about 150 Hopi students in various colleges and universities in the United States.

The Hopis (word means peaceful people) are a people of tradition and ceremony and ritual. Dance patterns are handed down from generation to generation, unchanged. The Hopi prayer for rain is expressed in their famous Snake Dance held



AMERICA'S MOST PROMINENT INDIANS, the Hopi Indian tribe, reside in 12 villages on three mesas such as these in northeastern Arizona. They have been described as unchangeable, admirable and truly unique people.

each year late in August in East Indian School Road, Phoenix, Ariz., 85012. Tribal profits tend, but cameras have not been allowed since 1915.

The Medal and Book will be available for distribution on June 15th. The m a t c h e d numbered pair sells for \$15.00 postpaid. Orders should be sent to: Indian Tribal Series, 401 Museum.

NOTE: Any one interested in learning more about Kachinas can study the fine Blumberg Collection at the Historical Museum.

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8/15/71

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Tribal Coin Medal Series Featuring Apache Indians

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Number Three in the Indian Tribal Series of Coin-Medals and Books has just been announced. Delivery will begin September 1st.

Of interest to coin collectors and students of Indian lore is the issue of the silver coin-medals and books of history of the different Indian tribes in the United States. Already sell-outs are the medals depicting the Havasupai and Hopi Indians.

A pure silver (.999-1000 fineness) proof coin-medal commemorating the Centennial of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation has been struck by the Franklin Mint for the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Produced in limited quantity, only 15,000, and numbered (stamped on the edge of the medal and imprinted on the first page of the book) these sets rapidly become collector's treasures.

Edited by the Tribal Council before going to print, the 112-page books are written by the Tribal Historian and leading anthropologists. The medal and book sets sell for \$15. A percentage of the sales is given to the Tribe to further their welfare and education. For an additional one dollar the book will be personally autographed by the Tribal Chief and mailed from Fort Apache, Arizona, with their distinctive postmark.

One side the Apache medal depicts an Apache warrior on horseback. A Spirit Dancer "Besh-eli-Kyii" meaning "precious metal" is struck on the reverse side of the coin. The dates 1871 to 1971 commemorating the one hundred years of the founding of the reservation are also inscribed on the coin.

On the 7th of April, 1873 the last of the Apache Indian hands in central Arizona surrendered



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to General George Crook. Old Cah-lipun was defiant, but realistic. He faced the general and said, "You see, we're nearly dead from want of food and exposure — the copper cartridge has done the business for us. I am glad of the opportunity to surrender, but I do it not because I love you, but because I am afraid of General."

The Fort Apache Indian reservation is now the largest privately owned recreation area in the West covering 2,601 square miles and containing 300 miles of streams and 26 major lakes.

In this country the traditional foods of the Apaches grow in abundance . . . wild berries; walnuts; acorns to grind into fine flour and stew with meats; pinion nuts; juniper berries for broth. In the little farms grow pinto beans, pumpkin, melons and corn . . . corn to roast on the coals, to parch, to stew with meat and beans, to make into hominy and such and tortillas and sweet cakes . . . corn to make a wild fermented drink called "tulapai."

The old traditions are strong. Some families still live in "wickiups." To a few Apaches,

no compromise with the modern world is acceptable. However, most of the people now live in settlements where the men have jobs, the children go to school, the women shop in modern markets. The White Mountain Apaches were the only group which was never dislodged from their homeland.

During World War II and the Korean War many Apache men left the reservation to serve in the Armed Forces. They came back with new ideas and the people began to realize they could adopt part of the white man's world and still be Apache.

Born fighters, guerilla warriors, and the world's experts in the art of concealment, Apaches possess the ability to travel (running) over 100 miles in 24 hours, while at the same time leaving signs for their own people which pursuers could not read or even notice. An Apache could go without water for periods up to 72 hours, in a hot, arid region, by placing a pebble under his tongue.

At one time over 25 per cent of the total United States mili-

tary force was directed to the pacification of the Apaches. From 1862 to 1871 the United States spent about \$38,600,000 to kill fewer than 100 Apaches (old men, women and children included) while losing over 1,000 troops and civilians.

Over a century ago, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Anglo-Americans called the Apache murderous and miserable, brutal and blood-thirsty, impractical but deceitful, cunning, cowardly, cruel, savage and treacherous.

The word "Apache" struck terror in the hearts of generations of white frontiersmen in the Southwest. They defended their land longer than any other native people in the world.

It is estimated that there are between eight and ten million coin collectors in the United States. The number of these Indian Tribal Series coin-medals being struck is only enough to accommodate one out of every 500 collectors. Those wishing to order them should write to: Indian Tribal Series, 401 East Indian School Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

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MORT REED, ... Author of New Book
AUG 6 1972

Coin Collectors Enjoy New Book

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

There are thousands of coin collectors, and even a few numismatists in the Wabash Valley. Today, people in all walks of life are taking an active interest in the subject of coins and medals.

A new, revised and expanded edition of the Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins, the numismatist's Bible, has just been received by the Vigo County Historical Society from the author, Mort Reed.

This superb illustrated reference source thoroughly describes every coin minted in the United States since 1793, with illustrations of both the obverse and reverse of each coin. Included are chapters on coinage laws, designs, devices, counterfeit coins and the mechanics of actual minting.

Mort Reed is an expert numismatist and columnist on coins. His column, "Money Clips," is syndicated throughout the country and Canada, and he also writes a column called "Coinology" for "Coin World."

The extensive research that has gone into this work, the excellent cooperation he received with the Bureau of the Mint, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the U.S. Secret Service make this the most complete and up-to-date book available on the subject.

An absorbing 320-page book for every coin hobbyist and professional, the Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins is an essential source of reference for law enforcement agencies and bankers and attorneys involved in estate appraisals.

A complete roster of known counterfeit and altered coins is listed by date, denomination, name, alloy and method of fabrication. Tips are offered on the care and protection of valuable coin collections.

A welcome addition to the Historical Museum's library, the book can be used during open hours, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday through Friday. The museum is closed on Saturdays.